

# Dynamic response of bilayered saturated porous media based on fractional thermoelastic theory<sup>#\*</sup>

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Received Feb. 20, 2021; Revision accepted June 25, 2021; Crosschecked Nov. 22, 2021

**Abstract:** Considering the thermal contact resistance and elastic wave impedance at the interface, in this paper we theoretically investigate the thermo-hydro-mechanical (THM) coupling dynamic response of bilayered saturated porous media. Fractional thermoelastic theory is applied to porous media with imperfect thermal and mechanical contact. The analytical solutions of the dynamic response of the bilayered saturated porous media are obtained in frequency domain. Furthermore, the effects of fractional derivative parameters and thermal contact resistance on the dynamic response of such media are systematically discussed. Results show that the effects of fractional derivative parameters on the dynamic response of bilayered saturated porous media are related to the thermal contact resistance at the interface. With increasing thermal contact resistance, the displacement, pore water pressure, and stress decrease gradually.

**Key words:** Bilayered saturated porous media; Thermo-hydro-mechanical (THM) coupling dynamic response; Fractional thermoelastic theory; Thermal contact resistance; Elastic wave impedance

<https://doi.org/10.1631/jzus.A2100084>

**CLC number:** TU473.4


## 1 Introduction

The thermo-hydro-mechanical (THM) coupling theory of porous media is of great importance in civil and energy engineering (Mei and Yin, 2008, Li CX et al., 2010, 2012, 2017, 2020; Li and Xie, 2013; Mei and Chen, 2013; Zhang et al., 2021). Numerous

practical projects, such as extraction of geothermal energy, storage of thermal fluids, and deep geological disposal of radioactive waste, need to carry out THM coupling analysis before construction (Levy et al., 1995; Liu et al., 2010b; Tao et al., 2014). Therefore, considering the neglect of fluid flux in the thermoelasticity, a detailed and in-depth understanding of hydrothermal, hydromechanical, and thermo-mechanical processes is necessary for describing the coupling behavior of fluid-saturated media (Liu et al., 2009). To overcome the shortcomings of the classical uncoupled and coupled thermoelastic theory which assumes the thermal wave propagates at infinite velocity (Biot, 1956; Booker and Savvidou, 1984; Wang et al., 2013; Zhang et al., 2022), generalized thermoelastic theory and diffusions theory have been proposed (Lord and Shulman, 1967;

\* Project supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (Nos. 52108347 and 51779217), the Primary Research and Development Plan of Zhejiang Province (Nos. 2019C03120 and 2020C01147), China

# Electronic supplementary materials: The online version of this article (<https://doi.org/10.1631/jzus.A2100084>) contains supplementary materials, which are available to authorized users

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Green and Lindsay, 1972; Abbas and Marin, 2018; Abbas et al., 2019).

Many studies based on the above theories have been applied to specific cases. Sherief and Hussein (2012) developed a THM coupling mathematical model with two temperatures for porous media, and analyzed the transient response of semi-infinite thermoelastic media subjected to thermal impact. Liu et al. (2010a) investigated the thermo-viscoelastic dynamic response of saturated porous media. Lu et al. (2010) focused on the dynamic thermo-mechanical response of half-space saturated poroelastic media and summarized the differences in response between thermoelastic and saturated porous thermoelastic media. Xue et al. (2020) studied the coupled thermal-moisture response of a cylinder with circular cracks and determined the effect of relaxation time on the response. Based on the two-temperature theory, Hussein (2018) theoretically investigated the effect of porosity on the temperature increment, displacement, and pore water pressure of solids and fluids. Singh (2013) used the generalized thermoelastic model to analyze the propagation and attenuation characteristics of elastic waves in saturated porous thermoelastic media. Saeed et al. (2020) investigated the dynamic thermoelastic response of saturated porous materials by finite element method. Youssef (2007) adjusted the generalized thermoelastic theory based on the Lord-Shulman (L-S) thermoelastic model. Bhatti et al. (2020) presented a theoretical study on the swimming of migratory gyrotactic microorganisms in a non-Newtonian blood-based nanofluid via an anisotropically narrowing artery. Khan et al. (2019) examined a third-grade magnetohydrodynamic fluid with variable thermal conductivity and chemical reaction over an exponentially stretched surface. Alzahrani and Abbas (2020) used finite element method to investigate the generalized thermoelastic response of saturated porous materials.

Note that all the above-mentioned solutions neglect the different heat conduction phenomena in the process of thermal wave propagation, and the temperature field of saturated porous media cannot be described by the generalized thermoelastic theory at high temperatures. To address this problem, Sherief et al. (2010) and Sherief and El-Latief (2015) derived an equation of generalized thermoelasticity with a fractional derivative, and Youssef (2010) pro-

posed a damped version of Fourier's law using time-fractional derivative theory. Subsequently, some researchers used fractional thermoelastic theory to investigate the dynamic response of saturated porous media or thermoelastic media. Ezzat et al. (2015) introduced a heat conduction model with a fractional derivative to investigate the dynamic response of half-space porous media. Based on fractional thermoelastic theory, Sherief and El-Latief (2013) derived a semi-analytical solution to the temperature-dependent heat conduction coefficient. Deswal and Kalkal (2013) analyzed the thermo-viscoelastic behavior of fractional micropolar media based on the two-temperature theory. Hussein (2015) focused on the fractional thermoelastic problem of an infinite cylinder and investigated the effects of fractional derivative parameters on the response. Sherief and El-Latief (2015) analyzed the fractional thermoelastic problem of thermoelastic media with a spherical cavity. Hobiny and Abbas (2021) established a bio-heat model with a fractional derivative to study the variations of temperature and thermal damage in spherical tissues during thermal therapy. In addition, Hobiny and Abbas (2020) proposed a mathematical model based on Green-Naghdi photothermal theory of fractional-order heat transfer to study wave propagation in a 2D semiconductor material. Considering the temperature-dependent characteristics of materials, Peng et al. (2020) studied the fractional thermal diffusion problem in infinite thermoelastic media with a spherical cavity. Alzahrani et al. (2020) investigated the behavior of a 2D porous material under weak, strong, and normal conductivity using the eigenvalues method. By introducing a time fractional derivative of the Taylor-Riemann series into the heat conduction equation, Wen et al. (2020) investigated the dynamic response of a circular tunnel in saturated porous thermoelastic media.

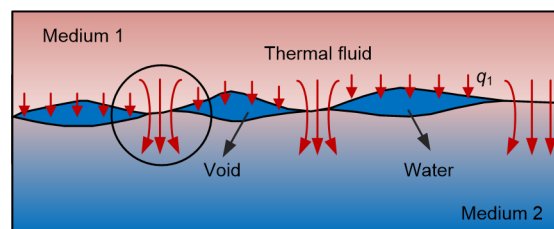
Differences among thermophysical parameters of each layer have a great influence on the distribution of physical fields in saturated porous media. Ai and Wang (2015a) focused on the axisymmetric thermal consolidation of layered saturated porous media due to a heat source. They investigated the 3D THM coupling response of saturated porous thermoelastic media (Ai and Wang, 2016). Ai et al. (2018) laid emphasis on the axisymmetric thermal consolidation problem of layered transversely isotropic soil

and studied the effects of transversely isotropic parameters on the displacement, temperature, pore water pressure, and stress of soil. Wang and Wang (2020) investigated the long-term thermal consolidation properties of layered saturated soft soil and derived a semi-analytical solution of a saturated soft soil foundation under different rheological models via Laplace and Hankel transform. Considering the thermal diffusion effect, Ai and Wang (2015b) studied the 3D thermo-mechanical coupling response of layered saturated porous media. In the above studies, the interface of layered saturated porous media was simplified as perfect contact, and the effect of thermal contact resistance was ignored.

Due to microscopic unevenness at the interface, the interaction between two interfaces generally occurs at discrete contact points. When heat flux passes through the first layer of media, the area of the contact surface shrinks, resulting in a reduction of heat and the formation of thermal contact resistance (Fig. 1) (Kek-Kiong and Sadhal, 1992). It has been reported that the thermal contact resistance is generated by the coupling effect of three factors, i.e. heat, force, and material, and is also affected by the surface roughness and material properties of the contact media (Yovanovich, 2005). Carr and March (2018) developed four different thermal contact resistance models for layered thermoelastic media. Xue et al. (2016) constructed an incomplete interface contact model and investigated the thermo-mechanical coupling response of a bilayer media based on the generalized fractional thermoelastic model. In another study, Xue et al. (2017) further introduced a heat diffusion effect to analyze the transient response of multi-layer structures in the presence of thermal contact resistance. In a subsequent study, they explored the transient response of layered thermoelastic media with temperature-dependent thermal diffusivity and heat conductivity (Xue et al., 2019). Li CL et al. (2020) employed generalized thermo-viscoelastic fractional strain theory to investigate the thermo-mechanical response of a layered viscoelastic composite structure interface under non-ideal contact. Yuan et al. (2021) correlated the thermo-physical properties of a material with temperature and investigated the nonlocal thermodynamic response of an external thermal insulation system. He et al. (2019) analyzed the transient response of a spherical shell

embedded in an infinite thermoelastic media based on a memory-dependent generalized thermoelastic theory.

In this paper, thermal contact resistance and elastic wave impedance are considered to simulate the imperfect conditions at the interface of a bilayered saturated porous media. The fractional derivative theory of thermoelasticity is introduced to describe the thermodynamic behavior of a bilayered saturated porous media. The analytical solutions of the dynamic response of the bilayered saturated porous media are derived by applying the operator decomposition method. Using the derived solutions, the effects of the fractional derivative parameters and thermal contact resistance on the dynamic response of bilayered saturated porous media are discussed in detail.



**Fig. 1 Thermal contact resistance model**  
 $q_1$  represents the heat flux

## 2 Problem formulation and governing equations

A schematic of a bilayered saturated porous media composed of two kinds of isotropic and homogeneous saturated porous media with different properties is shown in Fig. 2. The first layer is marked by 1 and the second layer by 2. The upper part of the saturated porous media is subjected to a uniform harmonic temperature load  $\theta_0 e^{i\omega t}$ , where the angular frequency is denoted by  $\omega$  and the temperature constant by  $\theta_0$ .  $i$  denotes a complex number,  $i^2 = -1$ ,  $e$  the exponential function, and  $t$  the time. The model does not incorporate any external force or free drainage boundaries. The saturated porous media 1 and 2 are not in complete contact because of the presence of tiny pores. Moreover, the pores contain a small amount of water. The thermal impedance and the reflection and transmission propagation characteristics of elastic waves at the interface between the two layers ( $x=h$ ) are taken into consideration, where

$h$  is the thickness of the first layer and  $x$  is the coordinate of an origin at top surface (Fig. 2). The lower part of medium 2 is infinite, i.e. it satisfies the condition  $x \rightarrow \infty$ . Both the pore water pressure and displacement are fixed at 0, and the temperature remains unchanged.

As shown in Fig. 2, the corresponding boundary conditions are derived as:

$$\sigma_1(0, t) = 0, \tag{1}$$

$$\theta_1(0, t) = \theta_0 e^{i\omega t}, \tag{2}$$

$$u_2(x \rightarrow \infty, t) = 0, \tag{3}$$

$$\theta_2(x \rightarrow \infty, t) = 0, \tag{4}$$

$$p_{f2}(x \rightarrow \infty, t) = 0, \tag{5}$$

$$p_{f1}(0, t) = 0. \tag{6}$$

The interfacial conditions (Xue et al., 2016) are introduced as:

$$q_1(h, t) = hm[\theta_1(h, t) - \theta_2(h, t)], \tag{7}$$

$$q_1(h, t) = q_2(h, t), \tag{8}$$

$$u_1(h, t) = u_2(h, t), \tag{9}$$

$$\frac{\sigma_2(h, t)}{\sigma_1(h, t)} = \frac{2}{1 + Z_1/Z_2}, \tag{10}$$

$$p_{f1}(h, t) = p_{f2}(h, t), \tag{11}$$

where  $\sigma_j$  ( $j=1, 2$ , unless otherwise stated) denotes the stress;  $\theta_j = T - T_0$  represents the temperature increment;  $T$  and  $T_0$  are the absolute and reference temperatures, respectively;  $u_j$  denotes the displacement;  $q_j$  represents the heat flux;  $p_{fj}$  denotes the pore water pressure;  $m$  denotes the film coefficient at the interface;

$Z_1$  and  $Z_2$  are the elastic wave impedances for layers 1 and 2, respectively. Furthermore,  $Z_1$  and  $Z_2$  can be obtained as  $Z_1 = \rho_1 c_1 = \sqrt{(\lambda_1 + 2\mu_1)\rho_1}$  and  $Z_2 = \rho_2 c_2 = \sqrt{(\lambda_2 + 2\mu_2)\rho_2}$ , respectively.  $\lambda_j$  is the Lamé constant;  $\mu_j$  denotes the shear modulus;  $c_j$  depicts the longitudinal wave velocity of the porous media;  $\rho_j = n_j \rho_{fj} + (1 - n_j) \rho_{sj}$  represents the density of the porous media;  $\rho_{fj}$  denotes the density of the pore water;  $\rho_{sj}$  denotes the density of the solid grains;  $n_j$  is the porosity.

Ezzat et al. (2015) proposed a fractional derivative heat conduction equation:

$$q_j + \frac{\tau_j^{\alpha_j}}{\alpha_j!} \frac{\partial^{\alpha_j} q_j}{\partial t^{\alpha_j}} = -k_j \frac{\partial \theta_j}{\partial x}, \tag{12}$$

where  $\alpha_j$  denotes the fractional derivative parameter,  $\tau_j$  denotes the relaxation time, and  $k_j$  denotes the heat conduction coefficient.

The governing equation for temperature is given as:

$$m_j \left( 1 + \frac{\tau_j^{\alpha_j}}{\alpha_j!} \frac{\partial^{\alpha_j}}{\partial t^{\alpha_j}} \right) \frac{\partial \theta_j}{\partial t} + \beta_j T_0 \left( 1 + \frac{\tau_j^{\alpha_j}}{\alpha_j!} \frac{\partial^{\alpha_j}}{\partial t^{\alpha_j}} \right) \frac{\partial e_j}{\partial t} = k_j \frac{\partial^2 \theta_j}{\partial x^2}, \tag{13}$$

where  $\beta_j = (3\lambda_j + 2\mu_j)\alpha_{sj}$  denotes the thermoelastic modulus;  $\alpha_{sj}$  represents the linear thermal expansion coefficient of solid grains;  $m_j = n_j \rho_{fj} c_{fj} + (1 - n_j) \rho_{sj} c_{sj}$  is the volumetric heat capacity of the media in which  $c_{fj}$  and  $c_{sj}$  are the specific heat at constant strain of pore

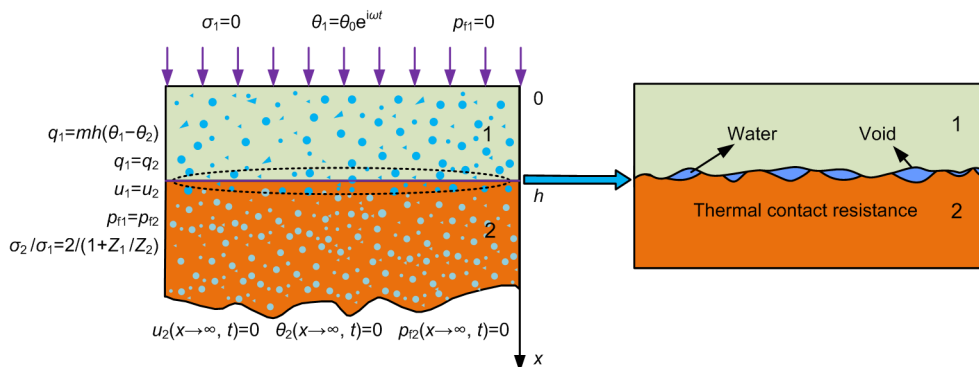


Fig. 2 Schematic of the bilayered saturated porous media

water and solid grains, respectively;  $e_j = \partial u_j / \partial x$  is the volumetric strain. As shown in Fig. 2, by neglecting the inertial effect and body force of the fluid, the motion equation of the bilayered saturated porous media can be written as (Lu et al., 2010):

$$\frac{\partial \sigma_j}{\partial x} = \rho_j \frac{\partial^2 u_j}{\partial t^2}. \tag{14}$$

The constitutive relation can be written as (Ai and Wang, 2015a):

$$\sigma_j = (\lambda_j + 2\mu_j)e_j - \beta_j \theta_j - p_{vj}. \tag{15}$$

According to Darcy's law, the fluid motion equation can be expressed as (Lu et al., 2010):

$$b_j \frac{\partial}{\partial t} (\alpha_{vj} \theta_j - e_j) + \rho_{vj} \frac{\partial^2 e_j}{\partial t^2} + \frac{\partial^2 p_{vj}}{\partial x^2} = 0, \tag{16}$$

where  $b_j = \rho_{vj} g / k_{dj}$ ;  $g$  is the gravitational acceleration;  $k_{dj}$  is the permeability coefficient of the porous media;  $\alpha_{vj}$  is the coefficient of linear thermal expansion of pore water.

Substituting Eq. (15) into Eq. (14), the motion equation in terms of displacement can be obtained as:

$$(\lambda_j + 2\mu_j) \frac{\partial^2 u_j}{\partial x^2} - \beta_j \frac{\partial \theta_j}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial p_{vj}}{\partial x} = \rho_j \frac{\partial^2 u_j}{\partial t^2}. \tag{17}$$

### 3 Solutions to governing equations

To solve Eqs. (12)–(17), the following dimensionless quantities are introduced:

$$\begin{aligned} x^* &= \zeta_1 \zeta_2 x, \quad t^* = \zeta_1^2 \zeta_2 t, \quad \tau_j^* = \zeta_1^2 \zeta_2 \tau_j, \quad \sigma_j^* = \sigma_j / \mu_1, \\ \theta_j^* &= \theta_j / T_0, \quad q_j^* = q_j / (k_1 T_0 \zeta_1 \zeta_2), \quad p_{vj}^* = p_{vj} / \mu_1, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\zeta_1 = [(\lambda_1 + 2\mu_1) / \rho_1]^{1/2}$  and  $\zeta_2 = m_1 / k_1$ . In the dimensionless form, the governing Eqs. (12), (13), and (15)–(17) can be rewritten as:

$$\left( 1 + \frac{\tau_j^{\alpha_j}}{\alpha_j!} \frac{\partial^{\alpha_j}}{\partial t^{\alpha_j}} \right) q_j = -\frac{k_j}{k_1} \frac{\partial \theta_j}{\partial x}, \quad 0 < \alpha_j \leq 1, \tag{18}$$

$$\sigma_j = \frac{\lambda_j + 2\mu_j}{\mu_1} e_j - \frac{\beta_j T_0}{\mu_1} \theta_j - p_{vj}, \tag{19}$$

$$\frac{\lambda_j + 2\mu_j}{\rho_j \zeta_1^2} \frac{\partial^2 u_j}{\partial x^2} - \frac{\beta_j T_0}{\rho_j \zeta_1^2} \frac{\partial \theta_j}{\partial x} - \frac{\mu_1}{\rho_j \zeta_1^2} \frac{\partial p_{vj}}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial^2 u_j}{\partial t^2}, \tag{20}$$

$$\frac{m_j}{k_j \zeta_2} \left( 1 + \frac{\tau_j^{\alpha_j}}{\alpha_j!} \frac{\partial^{\alpha_j}}{\partial t^{\alpha_j}} \right) \frac{\partial \theta_j}{\partial t} \tag{21}$$

$$+ \frac{\beta_j}{k_j \zeta_2} \left( 1 + \frac{\tau_j^{\alpha_j}}{\alpha_j!} \frac{\partial^{\alpha_j}}{\partial t^{\alpha_j}} \right) \frac{\partial e_j}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial^2 \theta_j}{\partial x^2},$$

$$\frac{b_j}{\mu_1 \zeta_2} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} (\alpha_{vj} T_0 \theta_j - e_j) + \frac{\rho_{vj} \zeta_1^2}{\mu_1} \frac{\partial^2 e_j}{\partial t^2} + \frac{\partial^2 p_{vj}}{\partial x^2} = 0. \tag{22}$$

After multiplying  $\partial / \partial x$  on both sides, Eq. (20) can be rewritten as:

$$\frac{\lambda_j + 2\mu_j}{\rho_j \zeta_1^2} \frac{\partial^2 e_j}{\partial x^2} - \frac{\beta_j T_0}{\rho_j \zeta_1^2} \frac{\partial^2 \theta_j}{\partial x^2} - \frac{\mu_1}{\rho_j \zeta_1^2} \frac{\partial^2 p_{vj}}{\partial x^2} = \frac{\partial^2 e_j}{\partial t^2}. \tag{23}$$

Combining Eqs. (22) and (23), the following expression can be derived:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\lambda_j + 2\mu_j}{\rho_j \zeta_1^2} \frac{\partial^2 e_j}{\partial x^2} - \frac{\beta_j T_0}{\rho_j \zeta_1^2} \frac{\partial^2 \theta_j}{\partial x^2} \\ + \frac{b_j}{\rho_j \zeta_1^2 \zeta_2} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} (\alpha_{vj} T_0 \theta_j - e_j) = \frac{\partial^2 e_j}{\partial t^2} \left( 1 - \frac{\rho_{vj}}{\rho_j} \right). \end{aligned} \tag{24}$$

For steady-state vibration with an angular frequency of  $\omega$ , Eqs. (24) and (21) can be respectively rewritten as:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\lambda_j + 2\mu_j}{\rho_j \zeta_1^2} \frac{\partial^2 e_j}{\partial x^2} - \frac{\beta_j T_0}{\rho_j \zeta_1^2} \frac{\partial^2 \theta_j}{\partial x^2} \\ + \frac{b_j i \omega}{\rho_j \zeta_1^2 \zeta_2} (\alpha_{vj} T_0 \theta_j - e_j) - \frac{\rho_{vj} \omega^2}{\rho_j} e_j + \omega^2 e_j = 0, \end{aligned} \tag{25}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{m_j i \omega}{k_j \zeta_2} \left( 1 + \frac{\tau_j^{\alpha_j} (i \omega)^{\alpha_j}}{\alpha_j!} \right) \theta_j \\ + \frac{\beta_j i \omega}{k_j \zeta_2} \left( 1 + \frac{\tau_j^{\alpha_j} (i \omega)^{\alpha_j}}{\alpha_j!} \right) e_j = \frac{\partial^2 \theta_j}{\partial x^2}. \end{aligned} \tag{26}$$

The analytic solutions of dynamic response of bilayered saturated porous media are obtained by Eqs. (19), (25), and (26), and the analytic expressions of temperature increment, displacement, pore water pressure, and stress are also obtained. So the problem may be completely solved. The solving process is neglected here and the reader is referred to electronic supplementary materials for detailed derivation.

### 4 Results and discussion

In this section, the effects of the fractional derivative parameters  $\alpha_1$  and  $\alpha_2$ , and the thermal contact resistance  $X_T$  on the temperature increment, displacement, pore water pressure, and stress of a layered saturated porous media are systematically evaluated. Non-dimensional relaxation times of  $\tau_1=\tau_2=0.5$  are adopted and the non-dimensional thickness of saturated porous medium 1 is set as  $h=0.5$ . The non-dimensional frequency is set as  $\omega=0.5$ , and the elastic wave impedance ratio is given as  $Z_1/Z_2=1.0$ . The material constants of saturated soil, which are assigned to saturated porous media 1 and 2, are shown in Table 1 (Lu et al., 2010; Wen et al., 2020). In addition,  $T_0=293$  K and  $\theta_0=1$ .

#### 4.1 Comparison and validation

First, the rationality and accuracy of the present solutions were verified by comparison with an existing solution. When  $X_T=10^{-10}$  and  $Z_1/Z_2=1.0$ , the boundary conditions of this study, i.e.

$$X_T \frac{\partial \theta_1}{\partial x} \Big|_{x=h} = - \left[ 1 + \frac{\tau_1^{\alpha_1}}{\alpha_1!} (i\omega)^{\alpha_1} \right] (\theta_1 \Big|_{x=h} - \theta_2 \Big|_{x=h}) \quad \text{and}$$

$$\frac{\sigma_2 \Big|_{x=h}}{\sigma_1 \Big|_{x=h}} = \frac{2}{1 + Z_1/Z_2},$$

can be degraded into the continuity boundary conditions at the interface of the bilayered saturated porous media ( $x=h=0.5$ ).

When  $n_1=n_2=0$  and  $\rho_{f1}=0$ , the porous thermoelastic media in this study can be degraded into a thermoelastic solid. Therefore, replacing  $s$  ( $s$  denotes the complex variable in the Laplace domain) with  $i\omega$  in the solution of Xue et al. (2016), the problem of Xue et al. (2016) can be degraded into the dynamic

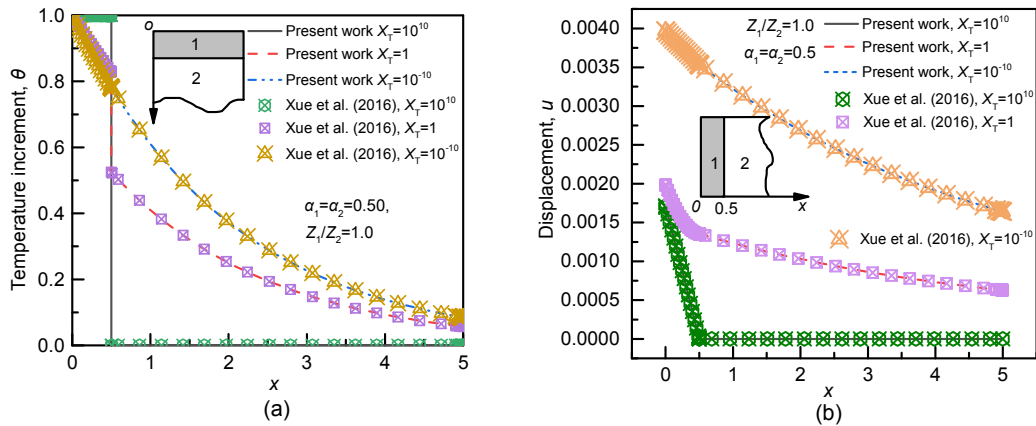
response problem of a bilayered thermoelastic media under harmonic thermal load. To validate the accuracy of the proposed solutions, the present results were compared with those reported by Xue et al. (2016). Fig. 3 demonstrates the variations of temperature increment and displacement with the depth  $x$ . The present results are generally consistent with those of Xue et al. (2016). When  $X_T=10^{-10}$ , the interface ( $x=0.5$ ) is degraded into the continuity condition, i.e.  $x=0.5$ . At this time, the thermal wave passes through the first layer and then completely reflects to the second layer of the thermoelastic media via the interface. At  $x=0.5$ , the thermal gradient at the interface exhibits a jumping phenomenon, which becomes even more obvious with the increase of  $X_T$ .

**Table 1 Default parameters adopted in the parametric study (Lu et al., 2010; Wen et al., 2020)**

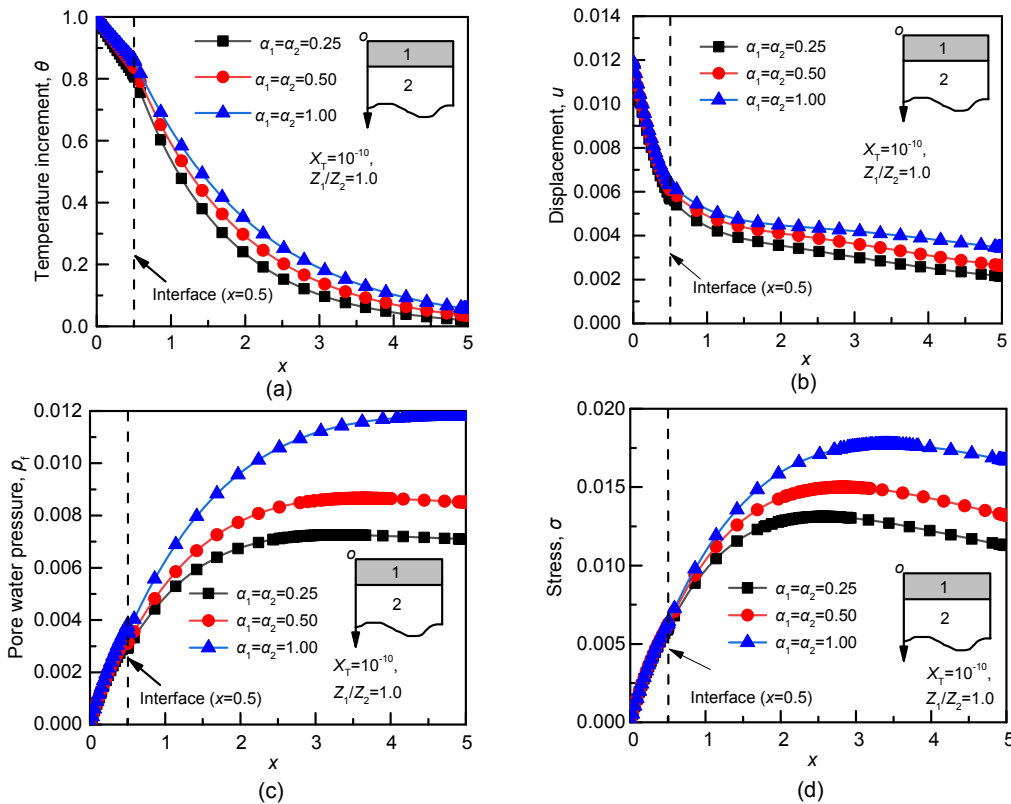
Variable	Value	
	Layer 1	Layer 2
Lame constant, $\lambda$ (Pa)	$4 \times 10^6$	$6 \times 10^6$
Shear modulus, $\mu$ (Pa)	$1 \times 10^6$	$2 \times 10^6$
Solid grains density, $\rho_s$ (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )	2600	1000
Thermal conductivity, $k$ (J/(s·m·°C))	4	2
Thermal expansion coefficient of solid grains, $\alpha_s$	$3.0 \times 10^{-5}$	$4.5 \times 10^{-5}$
Thermal expansion coefficient of fluid, $\alpha_f$ (°C <sup>-1</sup> )	$3.00 \times 10^{-4}$	$2.25 \times 10^{-4}$
Specific heat of solid grains, $c_s$ (J/(kg·°C))	2000	1500
Specific heat of fluid, $c_{f1}$ (J/(kg·°C))	4000	4000
Porosity, $n$	0.4	0.4
Fluid-solid coupling coefficient, $b$	100	100

#### 4.2 Effects of fractional derivative parameters

Fig. 4 shows the effects of the fractional derivative parameters  $\alpha_1$  and  $\alpha_2$  on the temperature increment, displacement, pore water pressure, and stress of the bilayered saturated porous media, when  $X_T=10^{-10}$  and  $Z_1/Z_2=1.0$ . When  $\alpha_1=\alpha_2=0.25$ , the heat conduction is weak, which results in relatively small magnitudes of temperature increment, displacement, pore water pressure, and stress. With the increase of  $\alpha_1$  and  $\alpha_2$ , the magnitude of the responses of these parameters increases significantly. On the other hand, when  $\alpha_1=\alpha_2=1.0$ , the heat conduction is strong.



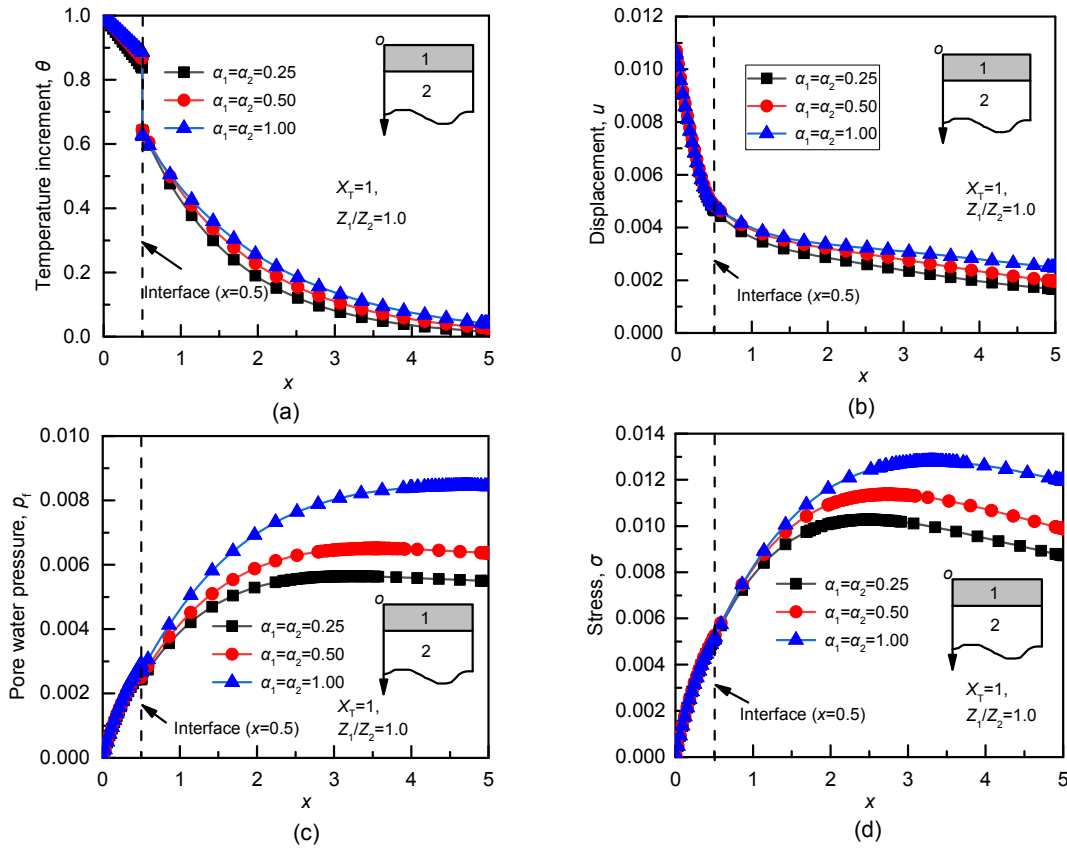
**Fig. 3** Comparison between the results of the present method and those reported by Xue et al. (2016) (a) Temperature increment; (b) Displacement



**Fig. 4** Effects of fractional derivative parameters on temperature increment (a), displacement (b), pore water pressure (c), and stress (d), when  $X_T=10^{-10}$  and  $Z_1/Z_2=1.0$

Fig. 5 shows the effects of the fractional derivative parameters  $\alpha_1$  and  $\alpha_2$  on the temperature increment, displacement, pore water pressure, and stress of the bilayered saturated porous media when there is thermal contact resistance at the interface of the two layers ( $X_T=1$  and  $Z_1/Z_2=1.0$ ). For the temperature

increment, a sudden leap can be observed at the interface ( $x=h$ ). The temperature of the second layer is significantly lower than that close to the continuous boundary ( $X_T=10^{-10}$ ), and is accompanied by rapid attenuation. As the fractional derivative parameters  $\alpha_1$  and  $\alpha_2$  increase, the magnitudes of the responses



**Fig. 5** Effects of fractional derivative parameters on temperature increment (a), displacement (b), pore water pressure (c), and stress (d), when  $X_T=1$  and  $Z_1/Z_2=1.0$

of the second layer increase significantly. However, they are significantly lower than those close to the continuous boundary ( $X_T=10^{-10}$ ). This can be attributed to the existence of a gap at the interface, because there is a small amount of water in the gap, and the thermal conductivity of water is much lower than that of saturated porous media.

Fig. 6 demonstrates the effects of the fractional derivative parameter  $\alpha_1$  on the temperature increment, displacement, pore water pressure, and stress of a bilayered saturated porous media under complete contact at the interface of the two layers ( $X_T=10^{-10}$ ) when  $\alpha_2=1.0$  and  $Z_1/Z_2=1.0$ . The fractional derivative parameter  $\alpha_1$  of the first layer can significantly affect the temperature increment, displacement, pore water pressure, and stress of the second layer. With the increase of  $\alpha_1$ , the temperature increment, displacement, pore water pressure, and stress increase in magnitude. This can be attributed to the enhancement of the strength of heat conduction with increasing  $\alpha_1$ .

Fig. 7 shows the effects of the fractional derivative parameter  $\alpha_2$  on the temperature increment, displacement, pore water pressure, and stress of the bilayered saturated porous media under complete contact at the interface of the two layers ( $X_T=10^{-10}$ ) when  $\alpha_1=1.0$  and  $Z_1/Z_2=1.0$ . The fractional derivative parameter  $\alpha_2$  has a more significant effect than  $\alpha_1$  on the dynamic thermoelastic response of the bilayered saturated porous media. With the increase of  $\alpha_2$ , the magnitudes of the responses of the second layer parameters, and especially those of pore water pressure and stress, increase gradually. We can conclude that the fractional derivative parameters  $\alpha_1$  and  $\alpha_2$  can adequately describe the THM coupling behavior of the saturated porous media.

### 4.3 Effects of thermal contact resistance

Fig. 8 (p.1001) shows the effect of thermal contact resistance on the temperature increment, displacement, pore water pressure, and stress of the bilayered saturated porous media, when  $\alpha_1=\alpha_2=0.5$  and  $Z_1/Z_2=1.0$ .



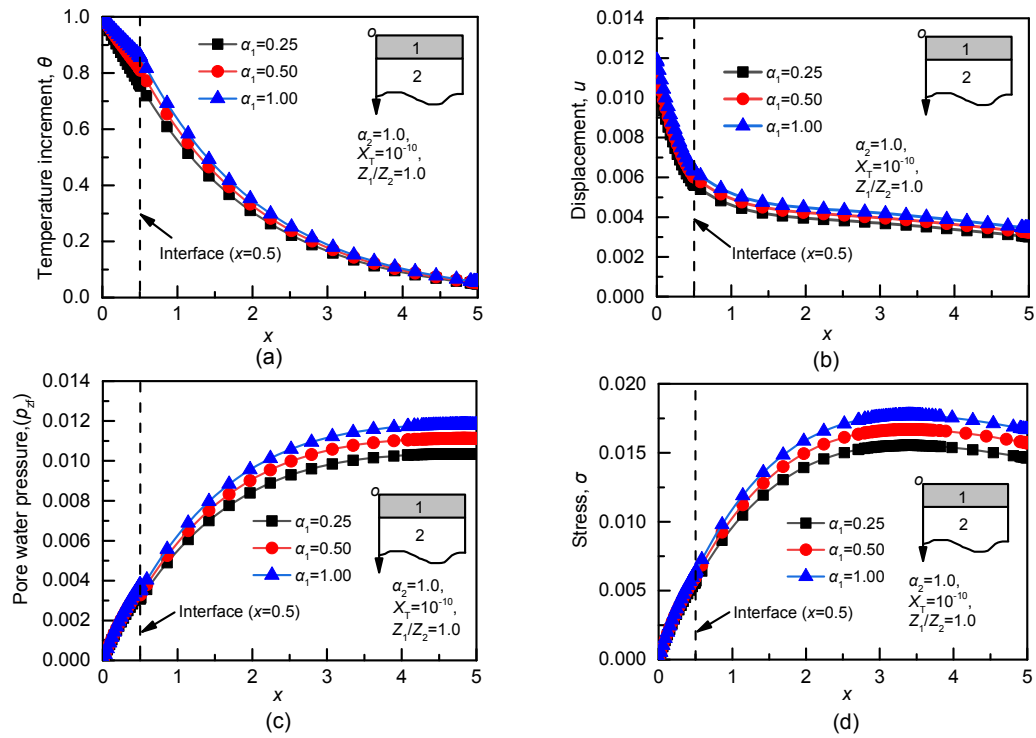


Fig. 6 Effects of fractional derivative parameter  $\alpha_1$  on temperature increment (a), displacement (b), pore water pressure (c), and stress (d), when  $X_T=10^{-10}$ ,  $Z_1/Z_2=1.0$ , and  $\alpha_2=1.0$

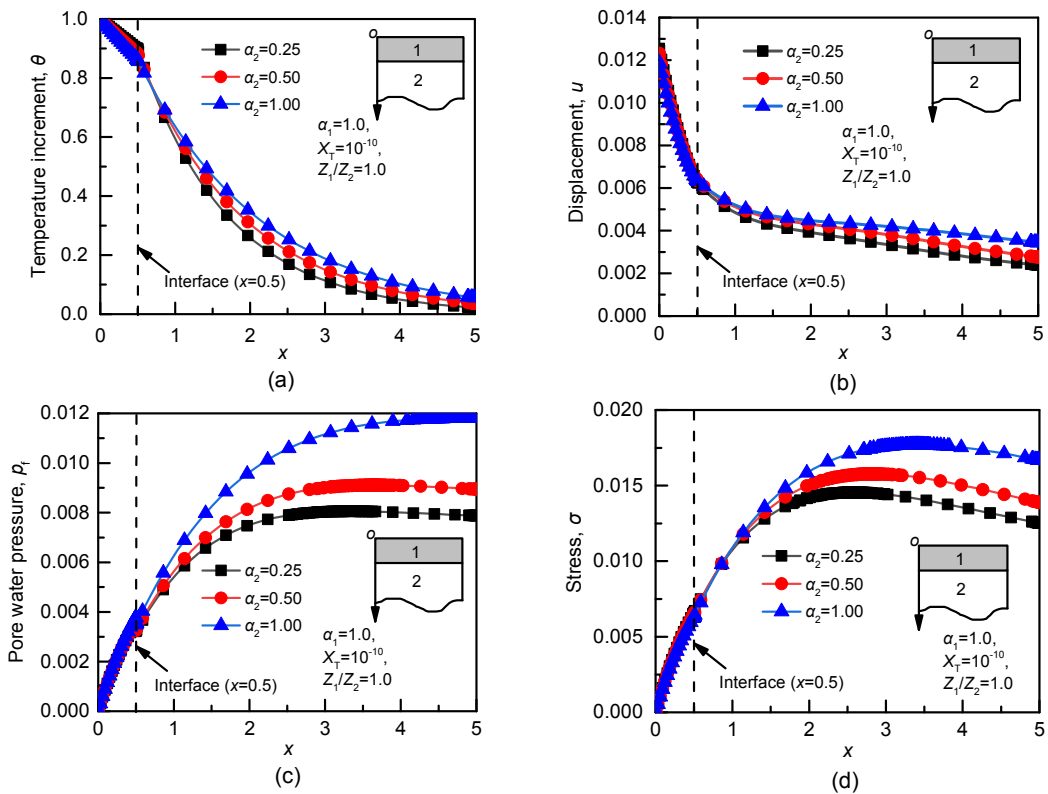
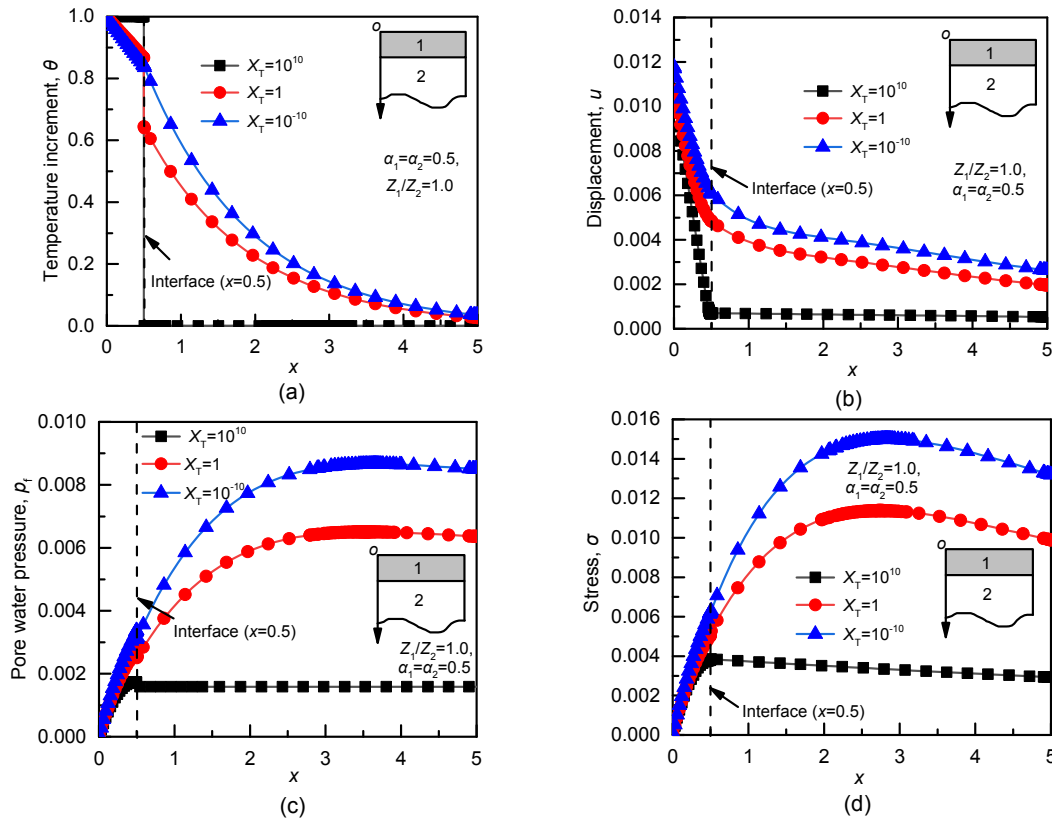


Fig. 7 Effects of fractional derivative parameter  $\alpha_2$  on temperature increment (a), displacement (b), pore water pressure (c), and stress (d), when  $X_T=10^{-10}$ ,  $Z_1/Z_2=1.0$ , and  $\alpha_1=1.0$



**Fig. 8** Effects of thermal contact resistance  $X_T$  on temperature increment (a), displacement (b), pore water pressure (c), and stress (d), when  $\alpha_1 = \alpha_2 = 0.5$  and  $Z_1/Z_2 = 1.0$

According to Fig. 8a, for  $X_T = 10^{10}$ , the interface of the bilayered saturated porous media ( $x=h$ ) is similar to that of a complete insulation condition, under which the heat wave can be completely reflected to the first layer when it passes through the interface. Therefore, the temperature increments in the first and second layers are close to 1 and 0, respectively. For  $X_T = 1$ , part of the heat wave enters the second layer through the interface, while another part is reflected, resulting in a sudden incremental leap in temperature at the interface. For  $X_T = 10^{-10}$ , the interface is close to the continuous boundary condition, and the heat wave can be fully transmitted to the second layer; thus, the temperature increment forms a smooth curve. In Fig. 8b, for  $X_T = 10^{10}$ , the displacement of the second layer is almost equal to 0. This is because the temperature increment in the second layer is almost equal to 0, since most of the heat is reflected to the first layer. For  $X_T = 10^{-10}$ , the contact surface satisfies the continuous boundary condition, and the heat can be completely transmitted to the second layer, producing great deformation between the two

layers. As shown in Figs. 8c and 8d, the pore water pressure and stress increase significantly with the decrease in the thermal contact resistance. When the contact surface approaches the insulation condition ( $X_T = 10^{-10}$ ), the heat can be transmitted to the second layer after passing through the interface. Accordingly, the second layer exhibits a great temperature increase, accompanied by an increase in the pore water pressure and stress in the two layers.

## 5 Conclusions

In this paper, a fractional derivative THM coupling thermoelastic model of saturated porous media is developed based on fractional thermoelastic theory and the poroelastic wave equation. The thermal contact resistance and the elastic wave impedance at the interface are introduced to analyze the THM coupling dynamic response of a bilayered saturated porous media. After analyzing the effects of the fractional derivative parameters and thermal contact

resistance on the dynamic response of the bilayered saturated porous media, the following conclusions could be drawn:

1. With the increase of the fractional derivative parameters  $\alpha_1$  and  $\alpha_2$ , the response amplitudes of the temperature increment, displacement, pore water pressure, and stress increase significantly. Moreover, the effect of fractional derivative parameters on the THM coupling response is related to the thermal contact resistance at the interface. If there is thermal contact resistance at the interface, the effect of the fractional derivative parameters on the system response is weakened. The fractional derivative parameters can reveal the heat conduction intensity and thermodynamic behavior of the THM coupling response of a bilayered saturated porous media.

2. The effect of the fractional derivative parameter  $\alpha_2$  on the temperature increment, displacement, and pore water pressure of a bilayered saturated porous media is stronger than that of  $\alpha_1$ . Furthermore, the response amplitudes of the second layer increase steadily as the fractional derivative parameter  $\alpha_2$  increases.

3. Because of thermal contact resistance at the interface, the temperature increment at the interface exhibits a jumping phenomenon, which becomes more obvious as the thermal contact resistance increases. With the increase of thermal contact resistance, the displacement, pore water pressure, and stress at the interface decrease gradually.

### Contributors

Min-jie WEN designed the research. Min-jie WEN and Kui-hua WANG processed the corresponding data. Min-jie WEN wrote the first draft of the manuscript. Wen-bing WU and Yun-peng ZHANG helped to organize the manuscript. Hou-ren XIONG revised and edited the final version.

### Conflict of interest

Min-jie WEN, Kui-hua WANG, Wen-bing WU, Yun-peng ZHANG, and Hou-ren XIONG declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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## List of electronic supplementary materials

- Data S1 Derivation of the analytical solution for Eqs. (25) and (26)
- Data S2 Derivation of the analytical solution for medium 2